



THE

KNIGHT



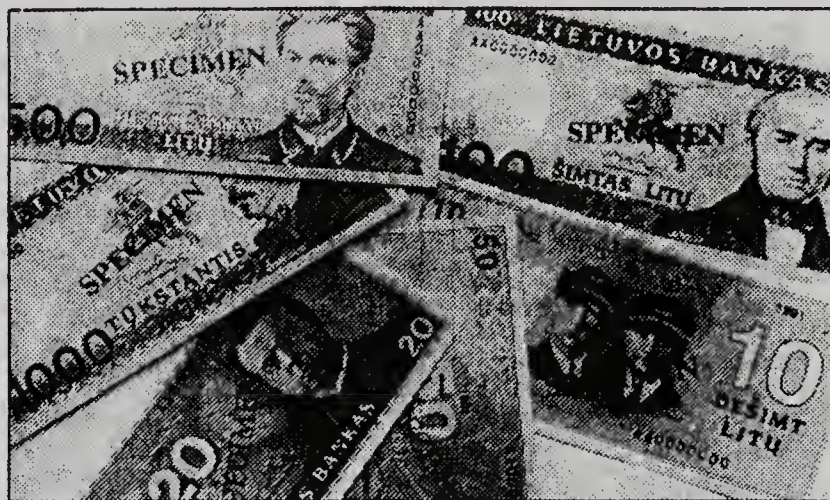
VOLUME 15, No. 4. Issue #84. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. March-April 1983

SOME OF THE LITAS NOTES WILL HAVE TO BE PRINTED OVER

By Brone Vainauskiene

[From Lietuvos Rytas/Lithuania's Morning, Friday November 13, 1992 pg. 1. Translated by Aleksandras Radzius]

Lietuvos Rytas has written a number of times that a quality control inspection of the Litai was performed by court appointed experts in the presence of foreign specialists and that the conclusion was that some of the notes are unsatisfactory with practically no safeguards against counterfeiting.



Atrodo, kad Lietuvos bankas paskubėjo pasigirti šiais litais.
Eltos nuotrauka, perduota spaudai 1992 m. liepos 22 d.

It was learned from reliable sources, that in the first part of last week a new contract was signed in Vilnius for the printing of the Litai notes with the same company which manufactured the unacceptable notes--U.S. Banknote Corporation. The smaller denomination notes, which the experts identified as poorly safeguarded against counterfeiting, will be reprinted. The larger denomination notes--500 and 1,000, will probably not be circulated at all.

According to our information, the Litai notes will cost Lithuania an additional \$2.5 million U.S. dollars. U.S. Banknote Corporation is assuming some of the blame for the quality of the first notes and agreed to fulfill the new contract for a nominal fee, at cost. The new contract was signed by the director of the U.S. Banknote Corporation J. Willings, the Prime Minister of Lithuania A. Abisala, and the Director of the Bank of Lithuania, V. Baldisis.

Let us recall what V. Baldisis said when Lietuvos Rytas published the results of the quality control commission back in July:

"How many unacceptable notes were found?" --0.00012%.

[Continued on page 2....]

Beware of Counterfeit Money!

[From LITHUANIAN WEEKLY,
January 8-14 1993, p. 2.]

Nearly 500 counterfeit talonas banknotes (in 500 denominations) amounting to the sum of 250,000 have been detected and taken out of circulation in Lithuania.

Three persons (two of them Azerbaijani nationals) were detained in Vilnius when attempting to purchase hard currency for counterfeit money. The genuine bills have a watermark pattern on them; however, because the talonas was designed for a short-term usage, the notes crumple very easily and it is sometimes difficult to discern watermarks on them.

In northern Lithuania, an unsuccessful attempt was made to sell large quantities of counterfeit Latvian rubles by several young residents of Panevėžys.

IN SEARCH FOR COUNTERFEIT MONEY PRINTING MACHINES

[January 15-21, 1993 p. 1]

During a search in a garage in Alytus (southern Lithuania), police found a money-printing machine for stamping 500-talonas bills. However, specialists say that the counterfeit banknotes, which appeared in great numbers on the Lithuanian market several weeks ago, were not printed by this machine. The well-faked talonas, lacking only water marks on them, were most probably printed outside the Lithuanian territory. On January 12 alone, 567 counterfeit bills in 500 denominations were detected and taken out of circulation throughout Lithuania.

LITAS NOTES TO BE REPRINTED

(Continued from page 1....)

"We would have resigned if that was what Lithuania required. We were smeared with dirt, accusations, lies. Nothing else was left to do--but to conscientiously continue our duties." (From Lietuvos Aidas 23 July 1992).

Now it is clearer than clear that it would be much better for Lithuania if with the 2.5 million U.S. dollars, heating oil could be bought rather than pay for reprinting of the Litai notes.

It's even embarrassing to keep repeating that V. Baldisis has been lying since the summer, saying that at the end of December of 1991 the Bank of Lithuania was "technically" prepared to issue the Litas notes. At that time we did not know about the quality of the notes. However, everybody, the Parliament Government Inspectors, and the General Attorney General, had access to documents which gave actual figures. At the end of December 1991, about 8% of the notes ordered were manufactured and delivered to Lithuania. Lietuvos Rytas is repeating this fact for the fifth time. We ran a facsimile of the letter of credit in which V. Baldisis delayed the manufacture of the Litai notes and waived early quality control. It would appear that in presenting the facts, we have performed our work---leaving it to officials to investigate the Litas Notes issue to conclusion. However, from what we have learned, neither the Government Inspectors nor the Attorney General's Office is going to look into the details. Also neither agency has received the Expert Commission's Report. It would appear that they don't even know that it was decided to reprint some of the notes. Also, all arrangements have not been made with the Swedish bank on the gap in the financing of the reprinting. Lietuvos Rytas is continuing its investigation.

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SECOND COIN OF KING VYTAUTAS FOUND

BY ALEKSANDRAS RADZIUS

Two years ago I reported the finding of a previously unknown coin of King Vytautas the Great (*The Knight*, Volume 12, No. 3). Now, another example of such a coin was found during an excavation next to the Royal Residence at the Lower Castle of Vilnius.



Bečiai coin

(x2)



Vilnius Castle coin

Although this coin's weight or dimensions are not given, its weight can be reasonably estimated to be about 0.30 grams*. It appears that this Vilnius coin was severely clipped. Both coins seem to have been minted with very similar dies.

Found in the same layer as the coin, were pine logs in such fine states of preservation, that study of their growth rings may date rather precisely the archaeological layer and the coins. We will have to wait for the results of this research work.

* Methods of estimating the coin's weight: Photographs of both coins to the same scale were published in the 1992 Kultūros Barai article. The illustration was xeroxed and the obverse of each coin was cut out and weighted to 1/100 of a gram. The weight of the Bečiai coin is known from the 1988 Kultūros Barai article to be 0.451 grams. Thus, solving a simple proportion yields the unknown weight.

SOURCES:

Kuncevicius, Albinas and Aleksiejunas, Vytautas. Pirmosios lietuviskos monetos ir plombos. *Kultūros Barai*, 1992, Nr. 2., p. 67-69. Vilnius, Lithuania.

Zabiela, Gintautas, and Aleksiejunas, Vytautas. Reta moneta is Beciu senkapiu. *Kultūros Barai*, 1988, Nr. 3, p. 66. Vilnius, Lithuania.

Radzius, Aleksandras. A rare coin from the historic cemetery at Bečiai. *The Knight*, Volume 12 No. 3, November-December 1989.

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VYTAUTAS THE GREAT MONUMENT RESTORATION MEDAL

Vytautas the Great Monument Restoration Medal

Sculptor: G. Lašas

Metal Content: Bronze

Size: 60 mm.

This is one of numerous medals produced in the 1989 & 1990 period during the drive for Lithuania's independence. While the national movement, Sajudis, was growing in Lithuania, the country's national monuments were restored. One of them was a monument dedicated to Vytautas the Great, in Kaunas, originally erected in 1932.

OBVERSE: Shown is the monument, featuring Vytautas the Great standing on top. This monument was inspired by the gala 500th anniversary of Vytautas' death celebration 1430-1930 held throughout Lithuania. As part of the base of the monument is the reverse of the Petras Rimša medal showing the large map of Lithuania covering Eastern Europe, and the anniversary dates of 1430-1930. On the left side of the monument is a St. George slaying the dragon emblem, and on the right a warrior with his broken shield & sword on the ground.

The main legend on the obverse reads, "VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO PAMINKLAS KAUNE," meaning, "Monument in Kaunas to Vytautas the Great." 1932-1990. On the lower left is a smaller legend reading, "PASTATE KARININKU KURSAI," meaning "Built by Cadets of Officer Training Courses," referring to the 1932 erectors. On the lower right is found the legend, "ATSTATE KLUBAS "AUKURAS," meaning, "Rebuilt by the Club "Aukuras." The word *aukuras* means "offering pyre."

The reverse side of the medal is controversial, as it tries to be "politically correct" or "safe" as we shall discuss in a moment. In the center is the seal of Vytautas the Great superimposed on top of a large map of 1400's Lithuania. The legend in the lower left hand portion reads, "DUX MAGNUS LITHUANIAE VYTAUTAS DIDYSIS," meaning "Grand Duke of Lithuania," as has been commonly translated. [See explanation below]. The 560th anniversary years "1430-1990" are divided by a Columns of Gedminas emblem on the top.

What is controversial is a deliberate altering of the Seal of Vytautas the Great on the medal. The legend on the original Seal reads "SIGILLUM ALEXANDRI ALIAS WITOWDI MAGNI DUCIS LITHUANIE DNI RUSSIE ET CETERA," meaning "Seal of Alexander also known as Vytautas King of Lithuania, Lord of Russia, and so on."

Unfortunately, on this medal, portions of the legend have been selectively destroyed and replaced with decorative designs. Only the following remains: SIGILLUM ALEX.....s witowdi DEI GRA.....ET CETERA, or "Seal of Alex.....s Vytautas by the grace of God....an so on."

Our translator, Aleksandras Radzius, who is a knowledgeable student of heraldry and Medieval Lithuanian history, writes us:

This selective destruction of the legend reminds me of the selective destruction of the legend of the great seal of Jadvyga Anjou first wife of King Jogaila. It appears that some later-day Poles tried to hide the fact that during the medieval period Poland was called Lachia at least by Poles, Lithuanians, Hungarians, and Romanians.



King Vytautas received THREE baptisms. The first was in the Orthodox faith where he received the name Alexander. The second was in the Latin Rite in 1383 at the hands of the Teutonic Order where he received the name Vygandas; and the third was again in the Latin Rite, being rebaptized in Cracow in 1386 with King Jogaila, who himself was already baptized in the Orthodox Rite and had the name Jacob. I do not know if Duke Vytautas received another name in Cracow or if he was rebaptized in the Latin Rite as Alexander again.

It appears that some Lithuanians are disturbed by the fact that King Vytautas placed his Christian name first, in front of his Lithuanian name Vytautas. So they rubbed out half of ALEXANDRI and ALIAS up to the S.

Further, many Lithuanians now realize that to translate "Magnus Dux" as "Grand Duke" is historical and linguistic nonsense.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10....)

4. INDUSTRIALISTS BLAME BANK OF LITHUANIA AND DEMAND V. BALDISIS BE REPLACED

By VIRGAUDAS GUDAS

[From Lietuvos Rytas/Lithuania's Morning, 28 November 1992, p. 2. Translated by Aleksandras Radzius.]

The Association of Lithuanian industrialists has appealed to the Parliament to appoint another Director for the Bank of Lithuania.

see
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FOR
UPDATE
STORY...

The vice-president of the Association, Michael Aleliunas, told Lietuvos Rytas that due to the fault of the Bank of Lithuania, the nation's industries are in a critical position, since at this time the system of payment through the banks is completely destroyed. When Russia stopped making payment to the Baltic countries, no action was taken to normalize the payments. Thus, billions of funds belonging to Lithuanian companies were frozen in Russia for goods delivered.

Also, in October, the Bank of Lithuania stopped crediting industrial accounts with payment made by countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). When the temporary currency, the talonas was introduced, the Bank of Lithuania did not make arrangements with CIX banks and did not open with them reciprocal accounts. Thus funds sent to Lithuania in payment for goods delivered were returned without even notifying the companies. Now this money is wandering in foreign banks.

M. Aleliunas also informed us that according to data from the Industrial Association, in the beginning of November, at the Bank's Central Accounting Office, payments to Lithuanian companies for goods delivered were "stuck." They amounted to over 356 million rubles. However, payments between countries have not been fully normalized and this sum has not been credited into the firms' accounts. The Bank of Lithuania has not yet made arrangements with other CIS countries on how to clear up the issue and how to return this sum, which was paid by the customer and the Lithuanian firms did not receive. M. Aleliunas says that such inactivity by the Bank of Lithuania, inability to inform the firms in a timely fashion about changes in accounting has paralyzed Lithuanian industry. If the firms do not recover during the coming year the sums paid them by customers, many of them will go bankrupt. M. Aleliunas warns about the imminent closing of many firms and of massive unemployment.

In his opinion, the Bank of Lithuania director V. Baldisis is responsible for all of this and all efforts to meet with him and discuss the situation were unsuccessful. All invitations to V. Baldisis were ignored and the industrialists feel that he really has nothing to say. It is no longer possible to tolerate such inactivity and stubbornness.

Unfortunately, not a single government has been able to "touch" V. Baldisis. It is sufficient to remember A. Abisala's words in answer to the question--What kind of god is V. Baldisis that no one is able to have him dismissed, "V. Baldisis is more than a god. He is the director of the Bank of Lithuania." Now it is up to the Parliament.

MUSEUM ISSUES DARIUS-GIRENAS WOODEN TOKEN



The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago has issued a special 2" commemorative wooden token commemorating the 60th anniversary of the flight of Darius & Girenas of July, 1933.

The obverse of the tokens features a bust of the flyers, and the new memorial monument which is being constructed in Lithuania. This monument, originally proposed in 1939, was never constructed due to World War II and the Soviet Occupation of Lithuania.

The reverse side shows the plane LITUANICA in addition to the text. Enclosed in this issue of THE KNIGHT is a free token, courtesy of the Museum. Additional tokens are \$1.00 each plus a Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope to: Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, ILL 60629.

With the demise of the Russian Soviet Bolshevik Empire, the ancient and glorious coat-of-arms of Lithuanian Kindom and Empire, the Vytis, is again being displayed in public. This time, it is seen not only on Lithuanian currency and postage stamps, but also on those of Belarus. Since our publication, The Knight, is named for the Vytis, I thought it would be interesting to compare the current designs side by side. The postage stampes used to illustrate the Vytis designs have been enlarged.

1. The very popular Vytis of Juozas Zikaras (1881-1944) designed in 1924 and used on Lithuanian coins from 1925 to 1938 and on the 1990-92 issue postage stamps of the restored Republic of Lithuania. It is Zikaras's design of the Vytis which is currently displayed in Parliament Hall in Vilnius. The design is used on the current Talonas temporary currency notes, and it appears that the design will be used on the new Lithuanian coins and banknotes.

2. Vytis of Arvydas Kazdailis. The design was adopted by Parliament on September 4, 1991 and was used on the postage stamp commemorating the September 17, 1991 admission of Lithuania into the United Nations as well as the postage stamp illustrated here. The design is not popular and has received much criticism. Inquiries have been made in Lithuania to learn Kazdailis's biography.

3. The Vytis used by the Belarus was adopted by the Minsk Parliament on December 10, 1991. Although the design is based on a 17th century Lithuanian armorial roll, the name of the modern Belarus designer is not known yet. Inquiries have been made in Belarus to learn his name and biography. The design is currently used on several Belarus stamps and banknotes.

After suffering two centuries of Russian oppresiion and genocide, and in this century, oppression and genocide at the hands of the Poles and the Germans, the Belarus only now have a real chance at establishing their own state.

The slavic speaking Belarus are currently naming the Vytis with the name imposed on the Poles in the middle ages, "Pogon."

All European coats-of-arms are named with nouns or modified nouns. The noun "vytis" means "hero," "champion," "knight," and its forms in other languages is: "vitez" in Hungarian, Czech, Serbo-Croatian, and Slovenian; "viteaz" in Romanian; and "witez" in Polish. A study of why the Poles had to use the name "Pogon" for the Lithuanian coat-of-arms even though they already had the correct noun "witez" in their own language could yield some interesting insights into the actual power relationship between the Lithuanians and the Poles at the time when King Jogaila introduced the Vytis as the new arms of the Lithuanian Kingdom and Empire.

Special thanks to Rev. Antanas Saulaitis, S. J. for providing use with the Belarus stamps.



NEWS FROM RADIO FREE EUROPE/LIBERTY

February 16. Independence Day celebrations in Lithuania. At the Seimas, President Algirdas Brazauskas will present the Order of Grand Duke Gediminas to emigre poet Bernardas Brazdionis, painter Vytautas Jonynas, former Vilnius University rector Jonas Kubilius, poet Justinas Marcinkevicius, and poet priest Ricardas Mikutavicius.

March 2. Latvia Introduces Its Own Currency. Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis announced on 1 March that the Lats will be introduced March 5. The changeover will be gradual, starting with the 5-lats notes, valued at 1,000 Latvian rubles. During the transition period, the length of which was not indicated, both

the Latvian ruble and Lats will be considered legal tender, with 1 Lats exchanged for 200 Latvian rubles.

March 11. On 10 March the Seimas approved the resignation of Bank of Lithuania president Vilius Baldisis by a vote of 86 to 0 with 13 abstentions.

March 23. The Seimas appointed Romualdas Visokavicius, 50, former president of Litimpex Commercial Bank, chairman of the Bank of Lithuania.

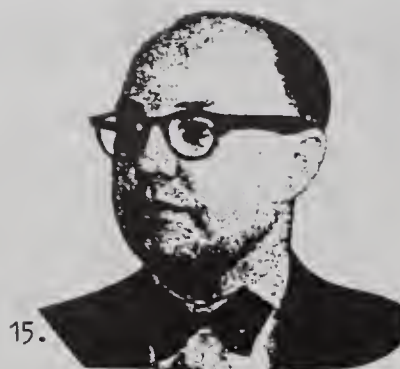
March 6. On 5 March Latvia issued the first 5-Lati banknotes, valued at 1,000 Latvian rubles. Baltic media reported that on the 6th that the Lithuanian Bank has decided to issue new 200 Talonu notes to help settle payments with the population and also that the police have discovered a cache of some 530,000 counterfeit notes in Vilnius. No date has been set for Lithuania to switch over to its own currency.

6. LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY

BY

Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by
V.L.G. Matelis



[Continued from the January-
February 1992 issue...]

FOLIS (Latin, follis) a) A wallet in ancient Rome, later a small coin purse; b) a copper, somewhat silvered Roman coin under Diocletian's monetary reform (293-296 A.D.), at first weighing 9 to 13 gr. (27 to 30 mm. in diameter), but soon lessened nearly by half; c) a large copper coin of Byzantium, originated by Anastasius in 488; d) folis or fels, these were named as small copper coins of certain other Asia Minor states.

FORINT. The monetary unit of Hungary, an aluminum coin of 100 fillers.

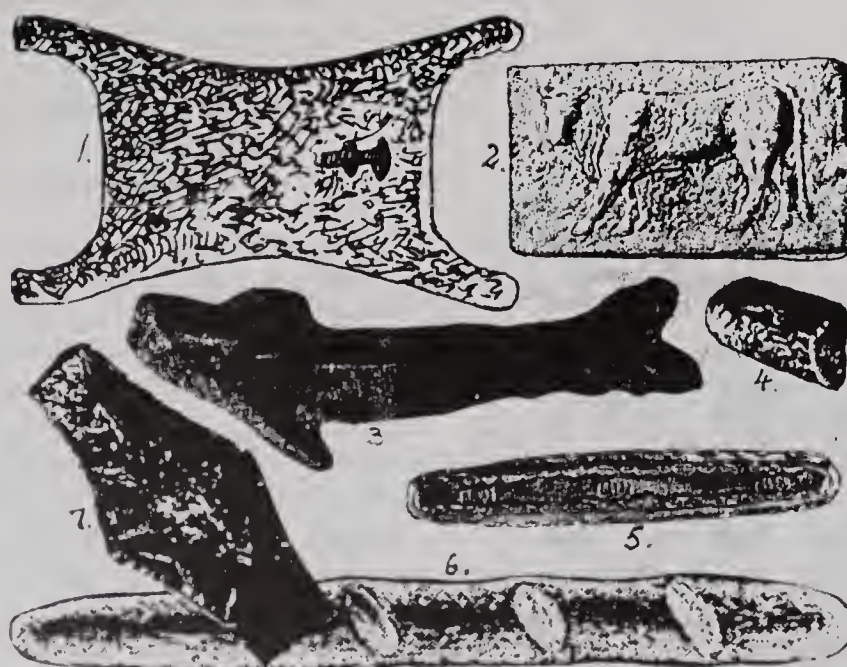
FRANG. Albanian gold monetary unit (named after the French Franc), from 1925 until the second world war; later, a silver coin. The frang was superseded by the "lek."

FRANKAS/Franc. 1. An old French monetary unit, originating with King John II the Good, who in 1360 began striking gold coins upon which was engraved the words "Francorum Rex" (King of the Francs); this determined for all time the word "Franc." That coin was struck of pure gold, weighed 3.885 gr., and remained valid as was the earlier accepted 1 livre or 20 sols. Soon thereafter, its production was suspended. However, it was not forgotten, and in some vicinities (e.g. Lotharingia) it remained as an accounting monetary unit. 2. Several centuries later, France issued a silver franc coin (about 0.830 purity) weighing 4.188 gr. This franc (later $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$) was struck from 1575 to 1641. 3. For another 150 years, the referenced franc remained as an accounting unit in France until in 1795, the state included it in the decimal system of 100 centimes, and began striking a silver franc coin of 0.900 purity, weighing 5 gr. But its purity dropped to 0.835 in 1866, and from 1916 the striking of the silver franc was entirely discontinued. 4. A monetary unit of Belgium (from 1832), in Switzerland (from 1850), Luxemburg, Monaco, Algeria, Morocco, Tunis, and elsewhere among the past or present territories of France and Belgium; it was a coin of the Latin Monetary Association until 1926. The gold coins of Sweden and Austria were called francs in the 19th century, though they weren't francs. 5. A coin of precious metal, and of other metals and bronze, struck in lands with franc exchanges.

FUNT-A Czarist Russian weight unit (pound), divided into 96 zlotnykus, and the zlotonykus was again divided into 96 "parts" (Russian "doli") in the metric system, about 409.530 gr.

GABALINIAI PINIGAI/Commodity Money. Media of exchange in antiquity in metal, produced by melting or reforming metal into desired portions. Wedges of silver or gold, various shaped chunks of copper, bronze, iron, etc. Unmarked or marked

50



Gabalinių pinigų pavyzdžiai: 1, Mikėnų kultūros bronz. gabalas (jaučio kailio form.); 2, romėnų bronz. plokštė (III a. sen. eros), svėrusi apie 5 svarus; 3, sen. graikų (Albijos) V-IV a. sen. eros liejinio delfino form. "moneta"; 4, sen. romėnų bronz. gabalas (beženklis); 5, sid. "tigro liežuvis" Indo-Kinijoje ($\frac{1}{2}$ natūrinio dydžio); 6, Heluvio liejinio sid. "kapa" (žr.); 7, viena rusų sid. "grivna" (žr. Grivna)

pieces by archaic symbols, premonetary (and early monetary) ages, were readily accepted than any other wares. Commodity money would include the kapos or bars cast by Lithuanians during the middle ages; also the Russian grivnas, and other similar means of purchase.

GAMYBA/Production. In numismatics, it is the sum of numismatic (coins, medals, etc.) technological features, reflected in their striking. The general appearance, the height or level of the dies' relief, the rims, edges, etc. The "production" of coins helps to establish or distinguish their types with respect to their time, place and mint; from all this, we can determine the who, what and the amount of influence exerted upon a coin under examination. Differences in "production" show how much, in one place or another, this branch of the plastic art has progressed or regressed. Production, when necessary, can be graduated: primitive, tolerable, middling, good, very good, excellent.

GARDINO KALYKLA/Gardinas Mint. During the struggle between August II and Stanislov Lescinski for the Polish-Lithuanian throne, the adherents of the former established a modest coin mint at Gardinas at the beginning of the 18th century, to enable August II, exiled by the Swedish army, "to strike his own state's coins in his own land." In 1706 and 1707 at the Gardinas Mint, the last of the coins attributable to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania were struck: the 6-grasis and 3-grasis coins. In addition to the bust and emblems of August II, on that Mont's coins are to be found the initials of the Treasurer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, L. Paciejus, "LP." When Lescinski interdicted those coins within the country, the initials "LP" were translated to: "Ludu placz" (people, weep). The coins produced in the Gardinas Mint are held to be the last monetary symbols of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Further, they were the very worst coins of this type within the country. For example, the 1707 6-grasis weighs a mere 2.6 gr, and it contains barely 0.65 gr. of silver. Later, there were issued in Poland common coins for both Lithuania and Poland, which were supplanted in the 19th century by Russian, German, and Austrian coins (determined by which part of the Republic at the time of its partition, fell to which "partitioner.")



Gardino Kalyklos trigrasys ir šeštokas.

GEDIMINAS. Grand Duke of Lithuania (1316-1341), founder of the Grand Duchy's Capital: Vilnius. During his reign, foundered kapos were first inspected and stamped with the state's symbol, the final pre-monetary Lithuanian money.

GEDIMINO ORDINAS/Order of Gediminas. An honorary Order of the Republic of Lithuania, in five classes, it was established in 1928 to honor persons entitled to and who have distinguished themselves in governmental and public service. Attached to the Order, there was a medal of three classes (gold, silver, and bronze).

GEDIMINO STULPAI/Columns of Gediminas. See Stiebu Vartai/Mast Portals.

GELEZINES MONETOS/Iron Coins. 1. Unpopular coins, produced from ordinary iron, when better metal for striking them is absent or in short supply. The first to employ iron in this connection were the Greeks in the 4th century, B.C. (Tegea, Argos). In our era, the Liang dynasty of China struck iron coins. We may also mention the iron coin of Japan dated 1863 valued at 4 mon, and the feudal lords of that country have struck other coins of the same metal for their controlled areas.

Examples of iron coins of modern times include: Germany's 5 and 10 pfennig of 1915-18; during the time of both world wars, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark distributed small change of iron, and Finland issued 1 and 5 marks after the war.

2. Iron Kopecks. Such was the name given by the public to the Eastruble denominations valued at 1, 2, and 3 kopecks, struck in 1916 and placed into circulation (along with the popular paper ruble notes) in German-occupied Lithuania and adjoining states, where the Eastruble was the prevailing currency. They were supplied by the State Loan Bank East, which was authorized to issue this small change in the sum of one million rubles. Just about that amount was issued, when coin mints in Berlin and Hamburg struck them. All obverses contained the same "iron cross" of the Germans, within which the coin's denomination was inscribed in Russian (1 kopeck, 2 kopecks, 3 kopecks), and the year of issuance, 1916. On the reverse, the German legend was struck, "Gebiet des Ober befehlshabers Ost." Below the letters "OST" were placed the letters A and J as mintmarks: the first for Berlin, the second for Hamburg.



Gedimino ordinas ir medalis.

March 5 - 11, 1993

Bank President Resigns

By Alda Staprans

Vilius Baldisis, the chairman of the Bank of Lithuania, handed in his resignation to Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas on March 2. Baldisis had been in conflict with the Lithuanian government since early last year.

Baldisis' resignation is apparently due to Brazauskas' wish that the Lithuanian parliament vote once again on relieving him of his post. Brazauskas made a statement last fall that the reorganization of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania is imperative to the introduction of the national currency, the lit.

The Lithuanian parlia-

ment has to date voted three times on dismissing Baldisis. In the most recent vote on January 26, the results were declared invalid and Baldisis stayed on.

"He has survived the proceedings against him three times already. Apparently he does not want to go through these procedures again," a representative of the Bank of Lithuania told *The Baltic Observer*.

In his resignation statement, Baldisis denies all accusations of "law violations, fraud, abuse of power and the incurrence of considerable losses," reports *BNS*.

Baldisis claims that he plans on participating in the introduction of the national currency and the activities of the Bank of Lithuania. "ir-

respective of his future post."

Vilius Baldisis was elected deputy of the Lithuanian Supreme Council (former parliament) in early 1990, and soon after was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania. Political attacks against Baldisis began in 1992, and were for the most part instigated by former Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. □



Vilius Baldisis and his policies have been held accountable by many for the delay in the introduction of the lit.

Photo: ELTA

Postscript: On March 23, the Lithuanian parliament appointed Romualdas Visokavicius, 50, former president of Litimpex Commercial Bank, the new president of the Bank of Lithuania.

NEW 1993-DATED 200 TALONU NOTE ISSUED INTO CIRCULATION

LIETUVOS
RESpubLIKA

1993



DU ŠIMTAI
TALONU



DU ŠIMTAI
TALONU

OG104988

New larger size 200 Talonas notes were issued into circulation at the beginning of March in Lithuania, measuring 120 x 57 mm.

The design is similar to the 1992 200 Talonas note, but notice the positions of the written texts have been moved around.

In addition, this is the first Talonas note to use the Lithuanian declension system for the denomination, i.e. Talonu, instead of just Talonas.

So far as of mid-April, this is the only 1993-dated Talonas note denomination. But if more shortages occur before the Litas is released, don't be surprised if there are others issued.

200



Basic Consumer Prices in Lithuania (Feb.)

in talonas (From LITHUANIAN Weekly)

Principle Foods

Brown bread	(1 kg)	16-54
White bread	(1 kg)	24-60
Beef	(1 kg)	110-270
Pork	(1 kg)	220-399
Chicken	(1 kg)	132-300
Cooked sausage	(1 kg)	144-324
Milk	(1 l)	23-42
Butter	(1 kg)	352-540
Sour-cream	(1 kg)	135-246
Cottage cheese	(1 kg)	30-174
Potatoes	(1 kg)	20-50
Cabbage	(1 kg)	17-50
Beets	(1 kg)	12-40
Carrots	(1 kg)	35-90
Apples	(1 kg)	38-140
Eggs	(10)	88-160
Sugar	(1 kg)	105-150

Liquor

Vodka	(0.5 l)	315-377
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Housing

Cold running water (per person)	98.78-146.70
Heating (1 sq m)	4.98-13
Electricity (1 kWh)	5.4
Elevator (per person)	20-143

Transportation

Public transport (1 ticket)	5-10
Taxi (1 km)	10-60

Services

Men's cut & style	15-389
Women's perm	200-900
Dry cleaning (winter clothes)	70-980
Single hotel room (1 day)	160-1,228

Source:

Prices and Competition Department, Ministry of Economics.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT RESULTS

9.

Thanks to all our members who responded to our special Director's Report which we sent to you a couple of months ago, along with a list of our current LNA members.

Many of you sent us \$10-15 donations to help our treasury out for the rest of Volume 15, in addition to some of you sending in your renewals for Volume 15. Except for the specific renewals, we will be treating these donations as gifts to the treasury, rather than a renewal for Volume 16, unless there are any individual objections.

By an overwhelming vote of 34 to 4, our members have voted to increase the subscription rate to \$15 beginning with subscriptions to Volume 16. This will help us greatly in covering our costs of printing, and mailing The Knight, etc. Also, in our Report we forgot to mention that we pay annual ANA dues, and rent a P.O. Box in addition, which means more expense.

So again, thank you for your interest and support of the LNA. We will be printing up new leaflets with the new subscription price shortly which you can pass out to sign up new members. Try and sign up a new member this year.

On another topic, we hope that our collectors are active in collecting, learning, and promoting our hobby of Lithuanian numismatics. If you need anything for your collections, or have anything for sale, why not share that information with the rest of our members? Remember, our non-commercial want/for sale ads are FREE to our LNA members. Let's get some more ads for the next issue.

January 22 - 28, 1993

Mandatory Sale of Hard Currency

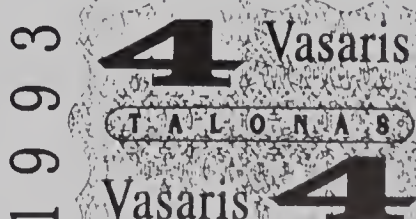
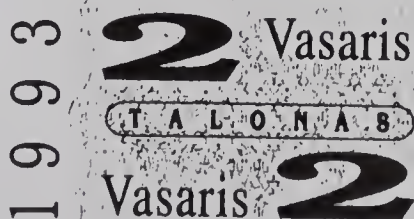
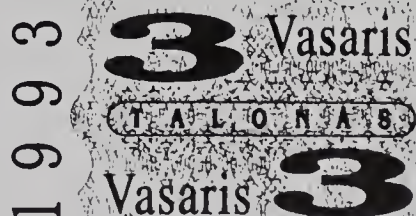
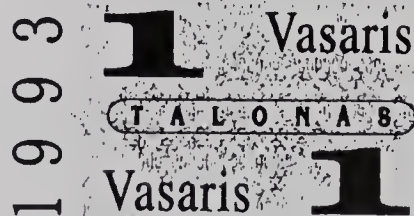
Beginning with February 1, all Lithuanian state enterprises and state joint-stock companies will have to sell 25% of their hard currency receipts to the Bank of Lithuania.

The resolution was passed by the Lithuanian government and the Bank of Lithuania in an attempt to set up a hard currency reserve fund. Convertible currency will be bought according to the

commercial exchange rate fixed at the moment by the Bank of Lithuania.

According to Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys, this is a step toward the introduction of national currency - the litas - and an important measure in strengthening the temporary Lithuanian talonas.

The government will present the Seimas with a proposal to establish the same procedure of selling hard currency receipts for all enterprises. This proposal is backed by the International Monetary Fund.



Illustrated here are the new 1993 "general Talonas" coupons, featuring a fresh new updated design. These are printed on the same paper the Talonas currency is.

The example at left dated February (no coupons were issued for January 1993) are purple in color.

These coupons are used to purchase specific commodities at below free-market prices.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3...)

But they do not have a better solution. So they rubbed out MAGNI DUCIS and inserted DEI GRATIA, which was never on King Vytautas' great seal. Hopefully my study on title usage will provide a realistic foundation why Lithuanian sovereigns should correctly be titled "King."

Also, the fact that Lithuania ruled for hundreds of years large tracts of Byelorussia, Ukraine, and Russia lands a very politically sensitive issue over there now. So they rubbed out DNI RUSSIE all together.

Personally, I find such falsification of history very disturbing. All falsifications of history have a way of turning out to be counterproductive!

Of all the contemporary medals produced in the last few years, this one more resembles a 1918-1940 type medal due to the older subject themes on them, and proves to be a good "bridge" between the two eras of medals.

Regarding our translator's studies that Vytautas should be called KING and not "Grand Duke," you can write him at P.O. Box 22696, Baltimore, MD 21203, as he has studied extensively on the subject.

WANT/FOR SALE ADS

FOR SALE: Contemporary Lithuanian numismatic items: 1991, 1992, and 1993 Talonas currency, "general" Talonas coupons, 1991 Siauliai Olympic Sports Games money, 1991 Lithuanian Red Cross notes, Vilnius Cathedral/St. Casimir medals, etc. Also pre-WWII Bank of Lithuania notes, and many other interesting items. Write for price list. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224.

VIDEO FOR SALE

The Lithuanian Philatelic Society of New York has released a 30 minute video cassette "Postage Stamps of Lithuania," its early issues. This is a transfer from a 16mm. film made a good many years ago and shown to some clubs and lately on a TV program. Excerpts are added from a documentary that was shown in 1943 to the Congress and Senate, when the Lithuanian American Council lobbied that the U.S. not recognize the occupation and incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union. The video is narrated by Andy Kaposhunes and the musical score of Ciurlionis piano sonatas is rendered by Vytautas Landsbergis. The price of the video is \$27.00.

The Lithuanian Philatelic Society's handbook, "Postage Stamps of Lithuania," published by Collector's Club, has now been translated and published in Lithuania with all stamp illustrations in color. 84 pages, hardbound. Price: \$15. Both items postpaid. To order write to: Charles Matuzas, 107-33 117th St., Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11419.

LITHUANIAN MINT DIRECTOR WRITES

Lithuanian Mint Director Viktoras Miltakis has written Standard Catalog of World Coins editor Colin Bruce (who is of part Lithuanian ancestry, by the way) with the following reply:

"We are glad to hear that Lithuania is a matter of worldwide interest. Our mint is interested to be listed in worldwide catalogs, but at this time our new currency is not yet introduced, so we have no right to give you any material about our coins and banknotes.

I present to you some copies from Baltic States money exhibition guidebook, which took place in 1990 in Vilnius, Historical-Ethnographical Museum. The Museum is preparing an article about Lithuanian temporary Talonas currency for an Estonian magazine at present.

The Lithuanian State honor ensigns and medals remain the same, as they were before the Second World War, but the set is filling up. Now we are preparing to issue the Sign of Lithuanian Independence Restoration Act signatory (the Act was signed on 11 March 1991).

--Viktoras Miltakis"

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